



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Index to the Gorgas Hospital Mortuary Registers, 1979 - 1991

Record Group 185

Updated May 15, 2020

1. What information is in these records?

This series is a necrology and partial index to the mortuary's registers and contains records of 26,213 U.S. military personnel, employees of the Panama Canal Commission and its predecessors, and Canal Zone civilians processed through the Gorgas Hospital Mortuary between 1906 and 1991. Records in the database include: name, social security number or other unique personal identifier, age, race, nationality, occupation, employer, date of death, place of death, the date the body was received by the mortuary, the person identified as being responsible for the remains, the place of burial, date of cremation, disposition of cremation remains, register entry number, marker, section, row, grave, cost, and remarks.

2. Why were these records created?

The database was created to serve as an electronic index to the records of individuals processed by the Gorgas Hospital Mortuary.

3. Does the file contain any errors?

The data file contains some obvious typographical and data entry errors such as misspellings and data from two fields erroneously entered into a single field. Overall, less than 3 percent of the records are affected by these obvious errors.

4. How can I access a copy of the full file?

The raw data file, along with the associated technical documentation, may be downloaded from the National Archives Catalog at: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>. There you can search by the series name, Index to the Gorgas Hospital Mortuary Registers, or using the National Archives Identifier 570981, which is the description identifier for this series.

In the results, select to view the full series description. Click on the link "file(s) described in the catalog" next to "Includes:" for a list of the file units within this series. Then select the file unit containing the records of interest to you. The file unit description will include the list of electronic records and documentation files available for viewing and/or downloading.

Additional information about downloading electronic records from the Catalog is available at: <https://www.archives.gov/research/electronic-records/access-in-catalog-faqs>.

Please keep in mind that the data file consists of the raw structured data as loaded into AAD (i.e. the coded values without meanings), but without the AAD software that displays the meanings for

NATIONAL ARCHIVES *and*
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD
COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740-6001

www.archives.gov

coded values and field titles. For more details about using files containing raw structured data, you may wish to review our "Introduction to Raw Data" at:
<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/electronic-records/raw-data-intro.pdf>.